

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
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R 221533Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1895
INFO AHEMBASSY AMMAN 2450
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 1232

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PLO, XF
SUBJECT: KHALID FAHUM PREVIEWS UPCOMING CAIRO PNC MEETING

REF: (A) DAMASCUS 1097, (B) DAMASCUS 1080, (C) DAMASCUS 984

1. SUMMARY: GAHUM BELIEVES CHANGES IN PLO CHARTER WILL NOT BE ADOPTED AT MARCH PNC MEETING. HE STATED SPECIAL SESSION OF NEW PNC WOULD BE NEEDED FOR THIS TASK. END SUMMARY.

2. REGULAR PALESTINIAN SOURCE REPORTED ON HIS DISCUSSION WITH PNC CHAIRMAN KHALID FAHUM FEB 19. ACCORDING TO SOURCE, FAHUM SAID NO COMPETITOR HAS YET EMERGED TO CHALLENGE HIM FOR RE-ELECTION TO PNC CHAIRMANSHIP. SOURCE SAID ABOUT ONE MONTH AGO FATAH PUT FORWARD CANDIDACY OF KHALID AL-HASAN, BUT ARAFAT RE-PRTEDELY VETOED HASAN'S NOMINATION. HASAN HAS NOW WITHDRAWN HIS NOMINATION BECAUSE HE BELIEVES HE UNABLE TO PUT UP CREDIBLE SHOWING IN CAIRO IF HE CANNOT OBTAIN FATAH'S ENDORSEMENT.

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SOURCE SAID FAHUM INDICATED HE WAS "EXHAUSTED" FROM CONTINUOUS ROUND OF POLITICKING AND MAY NOT RUN FOR RE-ELECTION. (SOURCE COMMENT: FAHUM IS SENSITIVE ABOUT HIS REPUTATION AS "SYRIA'S MAN" AND MAY BE PREPARING GROUNDWORK FOR HIS RETIREMENT FROM PNC POSITION IF STRONG OPPOSITION TO HIM AMONG PALESTINIAN CIRCLES EMERGES PRIOR TO OR DURING SESSION.)

3. FAHUM THEN OUTLINED FOR SOURCE SKELETON OF PNC AGENDA. SESSION WOULD BEGIN WITH ELECTION OF NEW PNC CHAIRMAN AND SECRETARIAT AND NEW PALESTINE CENTRAL COUNCIL. EXCOMM WOULD THEN PRESENT POLITICAL REPORT ON EVENTS SINCE LAST PNC SESSION. DIRECTOR OF PALESTINE NATIONAL FUND WOULD REVIEW STATUS OF PLO TREASURY. FLOOR WOULD THEN BE OPEN FOR GENERAL DISCUSSION AND DEBATE AMONG ALL PNC MEMBERS. FOLLOWING DEBATE, PNC WOULD DIVIDE INTO SEPARATE COMMITTEES TO DRAFT VARIOUS RESOLUTIONS, WHICH WOULD BE LAID BEFORE ENTIRE PNC FOR RATIFICATION. FAHUM ENVISAGED SESSION LASTING FOR APPROXIMATELY TEN DAYS.

4. SOURCE SAID THAT AT SOME POINT IN PROCEEDINGS NEW PLO EXCOMM WOULD BE SELECTED. ACCORDING TO FAHUM, NEW EXCOMM WOULD CONSIST OF ELEVEN-FIFTEEN MEMBERS. FAHUM AND ARAFAT ARE DISSATISFIED WITH CURRENT COMPOSITION OF EXCOMM. THEY BELIEVE INDEPENDENTS HAVE EXERTED LITTLE EFFORT TO ATTEND MEETINGS AND CARRY OUT THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES. FAHUM SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED PROBLEMS WITH MUHAMMAD NASHASHIBI, ELIA KHURY, ABD AL-JAWAD SALAH, AND HAMID ABU SITTAH. FAHUM SAID ONLY INDEPENDENT WHO HAS WORKED HARD HAS BEEN PLO SPOKESMAN ABD AL-MUHSIN ABU MAYZAR. FAHUM TOLD SOURCE MOST OF THE INDEPENDENTS, WITH EXCEPTION ABU MAYZAR, WOULD PROBABLY BE REPLACED. FAHUM SAID CURRENT THINKING IN PLO TENDS TOWARD REPLACING THEM WITH MORE ACTIVE MEMBERS BELONGING TO FEDAYEEN ORGANIZATIONS.

5. SOURCE ASKED FAHUM ABOUT POSSIBILITY OF AMENDING PALESTINE NATIONAL CHARTER. FAHUM REPLIED THAT, IN HIS VIEW, MARCH PNC SESSION COULD NOT AMEND CHARTER. IF DELEGATES INDICATED DESIRE

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TO MODIFY CHARTER DURING GENERAL DEBATE, MATTER WOULD BE REFERRED TO NEW EXCOMM FOR STUDY. EXCOMM COULD THEN RECOMMEND CONVENING OF SPECIAL PNC SESSION SPECIFICALLY TO DISCUSS AMENDING CHARTER.

6. ASSERTION BY FAHUM THAT SPECIAL SESSION OF PNC NEEDED TO MODIFY CHARTER, UNLESS FAHUM OVERRULED AT PNC, WOULD APPEAR TO PRESENT SERIOUS OBSTACLE TO BREAKTHROUGH ON CHARTER AT UPCOMING SESSION. HOWEVER, PROCESS LEADING TO EVENTUAL AMENDMENT OF CHARTER COULD BE INITIATED AT MEETING, IN WHICH CASE ARAFAT WOULD PLAY KEY PROCEDURAL ROLE IN DETERMINING CONTENT AND TIMING OF CHARTER MODIFICATIONS.

MURPHY

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Message Attributes

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Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 22-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977DAMASC01232
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
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Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
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